



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE ARRESTS 24 DURING OPERATION TARGETING FOREIGN-BORN GANG MEMBERS**

CHICAGO – For the past two nights, teams of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents and local law enforcement officers specializing in gang-related activity have spread out across Chicago's western suburbs arresting 19 foreign-born known street gang members.

An additional five aliens were also arrested during the course of the operation.

Of those arrested, 23 are Mexican nationals, with the majority possessing extensive criminal histories, including convictions for drugs, aggravated assault, firearms and theft. One Guatemalan national was also arrested.

This operation began Monday night and targeted foreign-born members of violent Hispanic street gangs. It was conducted by ICE and assisted by local police departments from: Addison, Carpentersville, Elgin, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park, Streamwood and West Chicago.

"We routinely work with law enforcement agencies at all levels using ICE's unique authorities to make our communities safer," said ICE Chicago Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown. "Our goal is to end the violence perpetrated by foreign-born criminal gang members by arresting and removing those aliens who threaten the public safety."

ICE agents, with the assistance of local gang tactical officers, arrested the gang members at their residences and local hangouts. Two will be presented to the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution on charges of re-entering the United States after deportation, a felony that carries a possible 25-year prison sentence. The remainder will be processed for removal from the United States.

Since 2000, ICE agents on Chicago's Violent Gang Task Force have arrested more than 375 known gang members in Chicago's suburban communities. ICE agents also identify gang members at jails and prisons during routine checks on the foreign-born criminal population and process them for removal from the United States.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*